

DISPATCH

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2005

TO Chief, NE Chief of Station, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief of Base, Frankfurt, Munich	HEADQUARTERS FILE NO. 201-
FROM Chief of Base, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operational, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Possible Soviet and Israeli IS Agent, Hermann Schiffer	DATE 25 July 1960 RE "OJ" - (CHECK "I" ONE) XX MARKED FOR INDEXING NO INDEXING REQUIRED INDEXING CAN BE JUDGED BY QUALIFIED HQ DESK ONLY
ACTION REQUIRED request traces per paragraph 10	

REFERENCES
a. NSDA 3507, 27 June 1960
b. NSDA 3509, 4 July 1960

1. The following information was submitted by ☒ on 13 July 1960.

Hermann Schiffer-- Nationality -- German

DOB: ca. 1914

Address: Germany - Ittenbach Siebengebirge, Rhineland
telephone: Koenigsrueter 2896

Lebanon - Hotel Myrton House, Rue Mexico
108 Beirut

Proprietor - M. Marsijek, Austrian (friend of ☒
dislikes Schiffer)

Profession: journalist, correspondent in Middle East for several German
magazines and newspapers on a free lance basis. Contributor
to Der Spiegel. Presently editor of Neue Arabische Welt.

Physical description: athletic type, heavy, stocky, solidly built.

Character: very intelligent, well liked, gains people's confidence quickly
and influences people easily. Drinks heavily and spends money
in a grand style. Says he is always willing to help people but
cannot be depended upon to do so. Is a braggart and a loud
talker.

2. According to ☒ on approximately 8 or 9 July he was able to discuss
Subject at great length with Tome Rosellio (see reference a.), a former official of
Ribbentrop's Foreign Office in charge of Jewish affairs and now a merchant in Damascus
PO Box 2345, telephone 24753. According to Rosellio, Subject arrived in Damascus in
early 1959 and became associated with the following group of refugee Germans living
in Damascus:

A. Dr. (fnu) *FISCHER, aka Brunner, former SD and assistant to Kichmann.

B. Mr. (fnu) *WITKE -- DOB and POB unknown. According to source, Witke
has been in Damascus since 1948. He is considered a very unsavory person. He arrived
in Damascus accompanied by a number of other Germans who had been prisoners of war in
Italian camps. When Italy agreed that these German prisoners could go to Damascus,
they made it a condition that Witke had to be in the group. Witke was held in very
low esteem and disliked by most of his compatriots. He is a man without scruples.

C. Mr. (fnu) *SPAET - a very intelligent swindler. He is reported to have
swindled the Syrian Government on several contracts and also received some thirty-five
thousand pounds from Dr. Said Imman of Damascus on false grounds.

D. Dr. Said Imman - a merchant in Damascus who is very close to the Germans,
speaks the language well and claims to be a special friend of the Germans. Dr. Imman
is suspected of maintaining contact with German citizens for ulterior motives.

3. According to Rosellio, Subject had been talking for a long time of starting
up a newspaper in the Middle East and had offered Rosellio a salary of \$200.00 a
month when the paper was under way. In the meantime, Subject requested that Rosellio

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MAY

USE PREVIOUS EDITION
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GROUP NO.
11

supply him with information on the Syrian situation for his free lance articles. Rosellio contributed information to Subject in the hope of securing the promised job. Since Subject's expulsion from Syria, Rosellio has had no word from him and has yet to be paid for his services.

4. According to Rosellio, in the fall of 1959 he began to doubt Subject's bona-fides, and wrote to a friend of his who is a member of the Journalists Federation in Germany to inquire about Subject's background. Rosellio showed ☐ the letter that he had received from his friend in Germany which stated that Subject had been barred from the German Journalists Federation. It was alleged that Subject had worked in Germany for two newspapers which were financed by the Soviets ☐ apologized for not being able to remember the names of the newspapers or further details concerning the letter.)

5. According to Rosellio, Subject is working both for the Soviet IS and the Israeli IS. He based this supposition partly on the letter referred to above and on the fact that Subject's article on the Eichmann affair published in Der Spiegel alleged that Eichmann was employed by the Concordia Oil Company, a subsidiary of the DEA (Deutsche Erdöl Aktiengesellschaft). This accusation was a blow against a well established company and served the purpose of the Soviets to undermine the status of that company in Syria.

6. Subject's involvement with the Israeli IS is based primarily on the fact that Subject was expelled from Syria by the Ministry of Interior for proven collaboration (not specified) with the Israelis. Furthermore, Subject's stories about the employment of Eichmann in Syria and his probable location in Kuwait did much to confuse the world as to Eichmann's true location. Rosellio considered that this story was started by Subject at the request of the Israelis in an attempt to confuse the situation. ☐ also alleged that the Syrian police had examined Subject's baggage and had found receipts for large sums of money with the notation "Affair Eichmann". ☐ could not explain where or when this check had been made as he did not query Rosellio further on this point.)

7. ☐ met Subject on 2 June 1960 in Beirut. Subject introduced himself to ☐ and presented a calling card belonging to the former German Ambassador to Lebanon, Dr. von Hentig. ☐ is a close friend of von Hentig and accepted Subject's friendship on that basis. Subject offered to assist ☐ in getting settled in Beirut and in making contacts for his business affairs. ☐ suggested that they both write a card to von Hentig, but Subject, while maintaining it is a good idea, never quite finds the right time to do it. ☐ now hazards that Subject does not know von Hentig and probably possesses von Hentig's card illegally.

8. ☐ received a letter from Subject dated 30 June 1960 in which he stated his newspaper will soon be published in three languages, English, German and Arabic. Subject stated that the newspaper will be backed by a group called the Afro-Asiatic Publishing Company, founded in Frankfurt, Germany, on 29 June 1960. Subject stated that he would return to Beirut approximately 14-16 July 1960. He requested that ☐ attempt to find for him a good translator who could edit his articles and put out the Arabic version of the newspaper (we are considering using Barbir Ayryubi for this). On 19 July 1960 ☐ received a letter from his Willa cover company telling him to break contact with Subject. No further details were given but ☐ suspects that Mamduh al-Midani of the Syrian Ministry of Interior had made the suggestion to the cover firm.

9. ☐ believes that Subject's earlier contacts with the German elements in Damascus have shown him to be highly untrustworthy and these contacts have lost faith in him. Furthermore, the actions of the Syrian Ministry of Interior, as well as his (Subject's) actions, in the German press have convinced many people that he was in contact with both the Israeli and Soviet intelligence services. ☐ feels that Subject is basically a brilliant man but erratic. His actions are not on a high moral plane, but, rather, he uses his abilities without scruples and procures for himself all possible material advantages. If he indeed were assigned to operate in the Syrian Region, he has completely failed in this mission. It is probably for this reason that he has decided to set up his paper in Beirut as he has greater freedom of movement there.

10. This Base would appreciate Headquarters, Frankfurt, Munich and Beirut traces

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NO
NSDA 3531

on San Jose. These would be appreciated on the Journalist Federation and the Afro-Artists group in Frankfurt.

11. Attached is a picture of Subject.

22 July 1960

Attachments:

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January 1970